

Taxpayer group calls Ensign a "hero"

DIANA MARRERO (online@rgj.com)

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WASHINGTON--Sen. John Ensign got kudos from The Council for Citizens Against Government Waste on Monday for being a "taxpayer hero."

Ensign, R-Nev., earned the distinction for voting against what the group calls "wasteful programs and pork-barrel spending" last year. The group gave Ensign a score of 86 percent on its annual congressional ratings.

The group gave Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, of Nevada, 5 percent. The average Senate score was 44 percent.

"Actions speak louder than words," the group's president Tom Schatz said in a statement. "The way a member chooses to vote is the best indicator of whether a professed commitment to fiscal discipline is real."

The taxpayer group rated 21 key votes in the Senate. Ensign voted to reduce spending in appropriations bills, enact earmark reform, cap damage awards in medical liability lawsuits, and repeal the estate tax.

"Sen. Ensign puts the interests of taxpayers ahead of politics by recognizing the long-term consequences of excessive spending and working to reduce the enormous debt being left to future generations," Schatz said.

On the Web (AT) www.ccagw.org